

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present response is respectfully requested. By the present amendment, claims 7 and 17 have been amended.

Examiner Interviews

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview conducted September 15, 2009. During the interview, the Applicants proposed adding more structural language to the claims to more clearly define how the inner sleeve is displaceable relative to the outer sleeve. The Examiner indicated that such additional language would likely overcome the art of record. The Examiner further indicated, however, that additional searching would be required.

A supplemental telephone interview conducted October 19, 2009. During the interview, the Applicants proposed further amending the claims to further define the environment in which the device of the present invention is used in an effort to prevent further searching by the Examiner and thereby place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner indicated, however, that the proposed amendments would not preclude additional searching by the Examiner and would not place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102/§103

Claims 7-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,194,661 to Gretz (hereafter "Gretz") and alternatively under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gretz. Claim 7 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner interview conducted September 15, 2009 and, thus, it

is respectfully submitted that amended claim 7 is patentable over Gretz and is therefore allowable. Claims 8-16 depend from claim 7 and likewise are believed to be allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 17 is patentable over Gretz and is therefore allowable. Amended claim 17 recites a carrier part that defines a cable channel for receiving a cable or tube. A first connecting unit includes a sleeve connected to the carrier part. A second connecting unit includes a guide part connected to the carrier part and a holding part releasably engageable with the guide part for connecting the carrier part to the motor vehicle base. An outer sleeve of the guide part defines a guide cavity that has a cross section that is longer in the longitudinal direction than in the transverse direction. The holding part includes an inner sleeve that is inserted into the outer sleeve along the transverse direction. The inner sleeve has at least one engagement element that engages at least one engagement element on the outer sleeve for connecting the carrier part to the base and fastening the cable to the carrier part. The at least one engagement elements on the outer sleeve extend in the longitudinal direction.

Gretz does not teach or suggest this structure. The Examiner asserts that the retainers 22, 24 that are inserted into the insert 18 constitute the inner sleeve and the outer sleeve, respectively, of the present invention. Gretz teaches that the retainers 22, 24 are inserted into apertures 24, 26 of the insert 18 with tangs 52A, 52B engaging openings 54A, 54B in the insert. A complimentary set of tangs 56A, 56B on the retainers 22, 24 engage matching openings (not shown) opposite the openings 54A, 54B in the insert 18 (Col. 2, lines 55-59 and Fig. 1). As clearly shown in Fig. 1, however, all of the tangs and the openings in the retainers

and insert, respectively, extend along the same direction and parallel to the direction in which the retainers are inserted into the insert. In other words, none of the tangs or openings extends in a direction different from the insertion direction of the retainers 22, 24 into the insert 18. Accordingly, Gretz does not teach or suggest an outer sleeve that has a guide cavity that is longer in a longitudinal direction than an insertion direction, an inner sleeve being inserted into the outer sleeve along the insertion direction, the outer sleeve having engagement elements that extend along the longitudinal direction and engage engagement elements on the inner sleeve. For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 17 is patentable over Gretz and is therefore allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

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